



To Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee

Testimony in support of SB 195, An Act Increasing the minimum Amount of Assets That May Be Retained by The Spouse of An Institutionalized Medicaid Recipient

C4A members respectfully request the Committee's consideration for this important bill that would decrease the anxiety and reduce the community spouse's trajectory towards needing State assistance for their own care. Currently, a couple with \$100,000 in savings would face a \$50,000 reduction of the asset for the community dwelling spouse. An increase in the minimum amount of assets would allow the community spouse to keep additional funds available to support in-home services to meet his/her own needs and hasten his/her reliance on Medicaid. Connecticut currently allows community spouses to retain half of the couple's countable assets up to \$137,400 (the federal maximum). The federal minimum resource standard is \$27,480, meaning that a community spouse can keep 100% of assets up to that amount. Increasing to the maximum allowable spousal assessment makes good sense for Connecticut and supports the individual desire to remain at home with a modicum of economic security.

This testimony is submitted by Marie Allen, President Southwestern CT Agency on Aging on behalf of Connecticut's five regional Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). The Agencies on Aging represent individuals in every Connecticut city and town and are the "point of entry" for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers in need of assistance navigating and enrolling in local, State and Federal services.

1. <https://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-home-and-community-based-services-enrollment-and-spending-issue-brief/>